

Message Text

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65

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PA-02 PRS-01

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FM AMCONSUL DURBAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2073
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS DURBAN 0408

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, SF

SUBJ: LEON MEETS WITH DURBAN AFRICAN AND INDIAN LEADERS

REF: DURBAN A-59, JULY 30, 1975

1. FORMER COLORED REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (CRC) EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN SONNY LEON, IN DURBAN TO REPORT TO MEMBERS OF THE CITY'S COLORED COMMUNITY ON HIS OUSTER AS EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN OF THE CRC, ALSO SPOKE WITH LEADERS OF DURBAN'S AFRICAN AND INDIAN COMMUNITIES NOVEMBER 18. PRESENT AT THE MEETING WERE TWO MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN INDIAN COUNCIL (SAIC), REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATAL INDIAN CONGRESS, MEMBERS OF THE UMLAZI (AFRICAN TOWNSHIP) RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION, UNIVERSITY OF NATAL SOCIOLOGIST FATIMA MEER, AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF YOUNG INDIANS AND AFRICANS. THE DISCUSSION WAS CONDUCTED ON A GENERAL LEVEL WITH LEON EXPLAINING THE ACTIONS WHICH LED TO HIS OUSTER AND BEING PRAISED BY VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE. LEON ADVISED THE SAIC REPRESENTATIVES TO WAIT UNTIL ALL OF THE SAIC MEMBERS WERE SELECTED BY ELECTION (AT PRESENT HALF OF THE BODY IS ELECTED AND THE OTHER HALF IS APPOINTED BY THE MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS) BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO IMITATE THE COLORED LABOR PARTY'S TACTICS AND "DESTROY"

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THE SAIC.

2. COMMENT: LIKE THE PREVIOUS MEETING BETWEEN LABOR PARTY
LEADERS AND MEMBERS OF THE SAIC (DURBAN A-59) THIS MEETING
WAS PRIMARILY AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EXCHANGING VIEWS RATHER THAN
WELDING AN ALLIANCE. THE VARIOUS COMMUNITY LEADERS PRESENT
REPRESENTED ONLY SEGMENTS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE ETHNIC COMMUN-
ITIES WHICH, AT PRESENT, ARE MORE CONCERNED WITH THEIR OWN
INTERNAL POLITICS THAN WITH FORGING A UNITED FRONT. LEON'S
STAY IN DURBAN WAS BRIEF AND DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO DISCUSSIONS
WITH MEMBERS OF DURBAN'S COLORED COMMUNITY.

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